



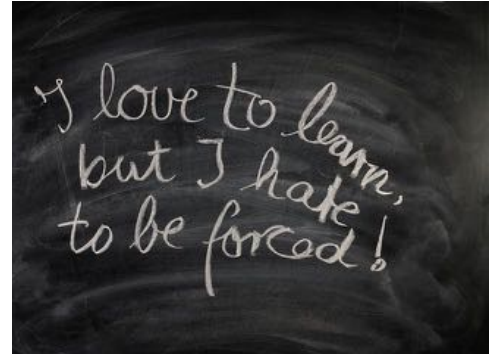
TIPS FOR MY FIVE YEAR OLD



Copyright © 2019 Chatterbox Speech Pathology, All rights reserved. No part of this booklet may be reproduced in whole or in part in any manner without the permission of the copyright owner.

Five year olds are typically very chatty and should have developed most of their foundation language skills. Here are some tips to help your preschooler hit his / her language milestones.

Please remember all children develop at their own pace. This post is designed to help your child, if you do have any concerns. It may also be helpful for parents who are out of ideas on how to continue to help develop language.



| TARGET SKILL | HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD |
|--|--|
| RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE | |
| <p>Follow 3 step instructions (e.g. get the ball, give it to mummy and put the plate in the sink)</p> | <p>Give your child opportunities to follow 3-step instructions. Ask your child to help set the dinner table, unload the dishwasher, etc. Provide unusual instructions during these tasks e.g. 'clap your hands, put a spoon away and then give me a high 5'.</p> <p>Your pre-schooler should be able to follow the complete instruction, in the correct order. You should be able to provide the instruction all at once rather than pausing while each step is completed.</p> |
| <p>Understands concepts such as opposites (high/low; wet/dry), order (first, last, next) & time (before, after, yesterday, tomorrow)</p> | <p>Talk about words and their opposites e.g. I am short but dad is tall. Compare who is taller and who's the tallest.</p> <p>Start giving your child instructions that have time / order words e.g. 'put on your shoes before you get your hat'. Change the word order (before get your hat, put on your shoes).</p> |
| <p>Can sort objects / pictures into sub-categories</p> | <p>Group objects into sub-categories e.g. winter / summer clothes, hot / cold foods, sea / land / sky animals, etc. You can use junk mail, toys, real objects or printed pictures. Talk about how items within the categories are same and different.</p> |

| TARGET SKILL | HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD |
|---|--|
| <p>Respond to higher-level questions that require thinking outside the here-and-now</p> | <p>Questions such as ‘what would happen if...?’; ‘ how do you think the boy might be feeling?’ should be responded to with a plausible answer.</p> <p>Support your child to answer these kinds of questions by providing possible reponses, discussing why they may / not not be probable answers; and extending the conversation further.</p> <p>Contact me to receive a comprehensive list of question types to ask.</p> |
| <p>EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE</p> | |
| <p>Use complete sentences with correct grammar including some irregular verbs (drank, fell) & all pronouns (e.g. he, she, him, her, I, you, them)</p> | <p>Ensure you are always using correct grammar. Don’t make a big deal of any errors – just say the sentence back with the correct grammar. For example:</p> <p>Child: look, I jump You: wow, you jumped so high! Well done.</p> |
| <p>Enjoys telling stories</p> | <p>The stories should have a central character or event. There should be a sequence of events that relate to the main character or event. Sentences are often linked with ‘and then’ or ‘and’.</p> |
| <p>Talk about events which are happening, have happened or might happen using adequate detail</p> | <p>Ensure your child is using specific words rather than ‘that’, ‘there’, ‘this’, etc. If these non-specific words are being used, teach your child the correct vocabulary.</p> |
| <p>Speak clearly and should be understood by anyone</p> | <p>Clarity can be impacted by a number of factors including sound errors, a child’s volume being too soft and / or children talking too fast.</p> <p>If volume or speed are issues, encourage your pre-schooler to adjust their rate or volume accordingly. Feel free to contact me for a fun visual sheet that can help children understand these concepts better.</p> |

TARGET SKILL

Use a range of sounds in words: p, b, m, t, d h, w, n, y, k, g, ng, f, l, s, z, sh, ch, j, v

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

Your pre-schooler should be correctly using most of these sounds in different positions (start, middle, end) within a word. Some errors are considered to be age-appropriate whilst other are not developmental. If unsure, please [contact a speech pathologist](#) to get a sense of whether there is a need for concern.

Always say words back correctly to your pre-schooler and do not put pressure on him / her to repeat the word/s.

GENERAL STRATEGIES

- Have fun with books by looking at the pictures and making up your own stories. Make your own books by drawing pictures and telling a story. Talk about how the story might end / start differently.
- Ask open-ended questions that will encourage your child to use longer sentences. For example, 'how can we tell the boy is sad?' rather than 'is the boy sad?'
- Help develop your child's pre-literacy skills by discussing how words rhyme; breaking words into syllables; and identifying the sound a word begins / ends with.
- Use lots of specific praise when your child makes any attempts. This tells the child that you are listening and exactly what skill you are aiming for and gives them a reason to try again.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN:

- Shows little interest in letters, reading and writing
- Is unable to generate rhyming words; finds it difficult to break words into syllables; or has a limited ability to identify the sound a word begins with
- Is difficult to understand or makes sound production errors
- Is unable to accurately recount events from the past

HOW WE CAN HELP

If you find these strategies are not helping your child progress, you may want to contact a speech pathologist. At Chatterbox Speech Pathology, based in Stirling, we can provide lots of practical strategies to help support language development. Our assessments provide insightful information about the things your little one is great at and areas that we can support. We make therapy fun for the child and give parents realistic goals to consolidate at home with practical ideas on how to develop the goals. We provide parent coaching to increase your ability to support your child.



If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact Kunali on 0405 176 931 or email me: info@chatterboxwa.com.au.

I hope you have found some useful information in this post. Please feel free to share this with any friends and family who may get some worthwhile information from the post too.

